Amendment in National Commission for Women Act

2308. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any proposal from the National Commission for Women to give them more effective powers to deal with cases coming up before them;

(b) whether Government proposes to amend the National Commission for Women Act for the purpose;

(c) whether any study has been made as regards the effectiveness of the National Commission for Women and other State Commissions for Women in the matter of resolving the issues falling under their purview; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) The Government has not commissioned any such study. However, National Commission for Women has sponsored a research study on the functioning of the National Commission for Women and State Commissions for Women.

Revitalizing ICDS

2309. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 11 crore out of the total 16 crore children are out of the ambit of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) and it has failed to curb malnutrition;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has any plans to revitalize this scheme so that maximum number of children in the age group of six to 72 months benefit from it; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) Out of a total of 16.38 crore children in the age group of 0-6 years, 11.75 crore children are in the ambit of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme and of these 6.95 crore children are availing the services under the ICDS Scheme as on 30.06.2008.

As per the Report of National Family Health Survey-2 (NFHS) conducted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in the year 1998-99, the percentage of malnutrition, among children below 3 years of age, was 42.7% which has reduced to 40.4% as per NFHS-3 (2005-06) by using new WHO Child Growth Standards.

(c) and (d) Government has since approved the proposal to revamp and revitalize the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme, so that maximum number of children benefit from it. The details are as under: